

Message Text

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DEPT PASS LABOR FOR SEGALL, AVERY, METCALF;
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR MANPOWER POLICY FOR ROBERT HALL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, OECD

SUBJECT: PROPOSED LABOR MINISTERS MEETING

REF: A) MO/A(75)2; B) OECD PARIS 10417

SUMMARY: DURING JULY 9-11 MEETING MSAC AGREED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL A TWO-DAY MSAC MEETING AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL TO REVIEW EMPLOYMENT-RELATED ISSUES. MSAC AGREED THAT MINISTERIAL TAKE PLACE LATE FEBRUARY OR EARLY MARCH. JAMES METCALF, USDOL LED USDEL. END SUMMARY.

1. MANPOWER & SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (MSAC) MET JULY 9-11 AND, AFTER CONSIDERABLE DEBATE, AGREED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL THAT MSAC MEET AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL IN LATE FEBRUARY OR EARLY MARCH, 1976. EMPLOYMENT WILL BE CENTRAL ISSUE OF MINISTERS MEETING. THE FOLLOWING IS PROPOSED DRAFT AGENDA AND RATIONALE:

I - STRUCTURAL, INSTITUTIONAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC ASPECTS OF EMPLOYMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT - MANPOWER AND SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS.

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PURPOSE OF THIS ITEM IS TO ENABLE MINISTERS TO HAVE BROAD DISCUSSION OF TRENDS AND ISSUES, BASED, IN PART, ON A STATEMENT BY MSAC CHAIRMAN. SINCE MSAC CHAIRMAN WOULD BASE HIS STATEMENT ON THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE, MINISTERS COULD, UNDER THIS ITEM, MAKE COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS ABOUT THE FUTURE WORK OF MSAC.

II - REVIEW OF EMPLOYMENT POLICIES IN THE 1970S

UNDER THIS HEADING MINISTERS WOULD EXAMINE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF POLICY MEASURES TO DEAL WITH THE CURRENT EMPLOYMENT CRISIS AND DISCUSS POLICIES NEEDED FOR REMAINDER OF DECADE. DISCUSSION PAPER WOULD DEAL WITH POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTION OF SELECTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND MANPOWER POLICIES UNDER VARIOUS ECONOMIC CONDITIONS. SPECIFIC ISSUES WOULD INCLUDE:

- A) SELECTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND MANPOWER PROGRAMS AND THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO MODERATING BOTH UNEMPLOYMENT AND INFLATION;
 - B) SELECTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND MANPOWER POLICIES IN COORDINATION WITH ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT POLICIES FOR STABILITY AND GROWTH;
 - C) POLICY STRATEGIES FOR EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH, WOMEN, OLDER WORKERS, MIGRANTS AND DISADVANTAGED GROUPS;
 - D) MANPOWER POLICY IMPLICATIONS OF STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT IN ITS REGIONAL, INDUSTRIAL, OCCUPATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL DIMENSIONS;
 - E) RATIONALIZING INCOME MAINTENANCE AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT CREATION PROGRAMS;
 - F) INTERACTION OF QUALITY OF WORKING LIFE ISSUE, AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO PRODUCTIVITY, EMPLOYMENT, LABOR MARKET;
 - G) WAGES, INFLATION AND EMPLOYMENT;
 - H) ROLE OF MAJOR POLICY INSTRUMENTS: MANPOWER TRAINING, INCENTIVES FOR EMPLOYMENT CREATION, PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT, THE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE, ETC. DEPENDING ON SERIOUSNESS OF EMPLOYMENT SITUATION AT THE TIME OF MINISTERIAL, SHORT AND MEDIUM-TERM ASPECTS COULD BE DEALT WITH TOGETHER OR SEPARATELY TO ALLOW
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MINISTERS TO ASSESS CURRENT SITUATION BEFORE PROCEEDING TO LONGER-TERM ISSUES. IN THIS CASE, AGENDA WOULD CONTAIN TWO SUB-HEADINGS:

- A) CURRENT EMPLOYMENT SITUATION - PROBLEMS AND POLICIES;
- B) MEDIUM-TERM PROSPECTS AND POLICIES.

III- COMMUNIQUE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

THE PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE OF MINISTERIAL WILL BE TO
ENDORSE A RECOMMENDATION ON MANPOWER AND EMPLOYMENT
POLICY. COMMUNIQUE WILL INCLUDE RESTATEMENT OF FULL-

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EMPLOYMENT GOALS AND POLICY DIRECTIONS FOR THE NEXT
DECADE.

2. MSAC REQUESTED MEMBER COUNTRIES TO SEND WRITTEN
COMMENTS ASAP ON PAPERS SECRETARIAT PREPARED FOR POSSI-
BLE MINISTERIAL (SEE MO(75)25). COMMITTEE ALSO ASKED
SECRETARIAT TO SUBMIT REVISED DRAFTS BOTH TO WORKING
GROUP ON EMPLOYMENT WHICH MEETS SEPTEMBER
18-19 AND TO SPECIAL WORKING PARTY FOR MINISTERIAL
WHICH MEETS OCTOBER 21-22, 1975.

3. US DEL MADE POINT THAT WHILE INTERESTED MINISTERS
CAN ADDRESS SOCIAL ISSUES UNDER AGENDA ITEM ONE, NO
POLICY STATEMENT CONCERNING SUCH WILL BE ISSUED. US DEL
ALSO MAINTAINED THAT MINISTERIAL MEETING MUST FOCUS
ON EMPLOYMENT ISSUE AND PRODUCE A STATEMENT REGARDING

SAME; PREFERABLY IN FORM OF REVISION OF 1964 ACTIVE
MANPOWER POLICY RECOMMENDATION.

4. FULL REPORT ON MSAC MEETING FOLLOWS IN SEPTTEL.
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